

[Mr. Speaker]

[9th November 1957]

obviously something is going wrong in the day-to-day administration, they may put questions and it would be wrong to disallow such questions on the ground that there should be no interference with the autonomy of these undertakings.

In Bombay, questions on matters within the jurisdiction of the Board regarding supply of electricity to any particular part, revision of rates of electricity and other matters relating thereto are admitted on the ground that the Members of the Board are appointed by the Government and that the Government are in a way responsible for the affairs of the Board.

In West Bengal also, questions relating to the Electricity Board on matters like the administration of the Board, rate of consumption of electricity, etc., have been admitted.

The right of interpellation is a very important right and one of the means by which Members can get information or ventilate grievances on behalf of their constituencies about the nationalised industries. I, therefore, feel that such questions are admissible, though they relate to matters pertaining to the day-to-day administration of the Electricity Board, if the matters are of sufficient public importance. It is, however, left to the Minister to answer them or not. As per rules, I cannot compel him to answer. I am also told that in the Lok Sabha not only questions are allowed, but even half-hour debates are allowed on matters pertaining to Corporations, which are formed under the auspices of the Government. I, therefore, feel that these questions are admissible and that, in all fairness, the Government will answer them.

### III.—PRESENTATION OF THE SIXTH REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON ESTIMATES

SRI K. R. VISWANATHAN: I, the Chairman of the Committee on Estimates, having been authorized by the Committee to submit the Report on its behalf, present the Sixth Report of the Committee on Estimates on the Public Works Department (Buildings). <sup>a</sup>

### IV.—GOVERNMENT BILL.

THE MADRAS VILLAGE PANCHAYATS (AMENDMENT) BILL, 1957  
(L.A. BILL NO. 16 OF 1957).

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM: Sir, I move—

“ That the Madras Village Panchayats (Amendment) Bill, 1957 (L.A. Bill No. 16 of 1957), as amended by the Select Committee, be taken into consideration.”

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<sup>a</sup> Laid on the table of the House.